

Amendments to the Claims

This following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of identifying a compound which regulates Growth Differentiation Factor 8, GDF-8, expression comprising operably linking to a gene an isolated GDF-8 promoter comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, contacting the promoter with the compound in a cultured cell such that the gene is transcribed and expressed, and measuring expression of the gene compared to a control where the compound is absent, whereby a difference in the expression of the gene compared to the control identifies the compound as capable of regulating GDF-8 expression.
2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of comparing expression of the gene after contacting the promoter with the compound to expression of the gene without contacting the promoter with the compound, to determine whether the compound has effected expression of the gene.
3. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the gene is a reporter gene.
4. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the compound inhibits GDF-8 expression.
5. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the compound upregulates GDF-8 expression.
6. **(Currently Amended)** A method of identifying a compound which regulates Growth Differentiation Factor 8, GDF-8, expression comprising operably linking to a gene an isolated GDF-8 promoter comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least 95% identical to the entire nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, contacting the promoter with the compound in a cultured cell such that the gene is transcribed and expressed, and measuring expression of the gene compared to a control where the compound is absent, whereby a difference in the

expression of the gene compared to the control identifies the compound as capable of regulating GDF-8 expression.

7. **(Original)** The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of comparing expression of the gene after contacting the promoter with the compound to expression of the gene without contacting the promoter with the compound, to determine whether the compound has effected expression of the gene.

8. **(Original)** The method of claim 6, wherein the gene is a reporter gene.

9. **(Original)** The method of claim 6, wherein the compound inhibits GDF-8 expression.

10. **(Original)** The method of claim 6, wherein the compound upregulates GDF-8 expression.

11. **(Currently Amended)** A method of identifying a compound which regulates GDF-8 expression comprising operably linking to a gene a portion of an isolated GDF-8 promoter comprising the a nucleotide sequence which is at least 90% identical to the entire nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 2, or 3, contacting the promoter with the compound in a cultured cell such that the gene is transcribed and expressed, and measuring expression of the gene compared to a control where the compound is absent, whereby a difference in the expression of the gene compared to the control identifies the compound as capable of regulating GDF-8 expression.

12. **(Original)** The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of comparing expression of the gene after contacting the promoter with the compound to expression of the gene without contacting the promoter with the compound, to determine whether the compound has effected expression of the gene.

13. **(Original)** The method of claim 11, wherein the gene is a reporter gene.

14. **(Original)** The method of claim 11, wherein the compound inhibits GDF-8 expression.

15. **(Original)** The method of claim 11, wherein the compound upregulates GDF-8 expression.